

The Kindness and Severity of God (Romans 11:1-22)

Pastor Deric

(1) I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. (2) God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? (3) "Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life." (4) But what is God's reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." (5) So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. (6) But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

(7) What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, (8) as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day." (9) And David says, "Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them; (10) let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and bend their backs forever."

(11) So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. (12) Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

(13) Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry (14) in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. (15) For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? (16) If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

(17) But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, (18) do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. (19) Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." (20) That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. (21) For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you.

(22) Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.

Practical Application

1. Review (Rom. 10): God's heart is to save the lost. Is this your heart? Make it your heart. People can be saved from eternal suffering. Christians are called to help alleviate all forms of suffering, but especially eternal suffering. Be truly beautiful. Tell others about Jesus. The feet of those who bring the good news of Jesus are beautiful.
2. If you sincerely want God you can have Him. God will never reject His children.
3. God loves the Israelite (Jewish) people. He wants them to be saved. Many have been saved. Do you love Israel?
4. God knows everything (past, present, and future). He knows our hearts. We can rest in His perfect knowledge.
5. God will always have a remnant of people who truly love and trust Him. Are you a part of that remnant? If not, you can be today.
6. God is gracious. You are chosen.

7. Christian, you are loved, chosen, elect, graced, held, and will never be let go. Jesus loves you.
8. Have a soft heart and not a hard heart. Open your heart fully to Christ today and every day.
9. Be sensitive to what God is saying to you today. Open the eyes of your heart and listen carefully to His Word.
10. God loves the people of the world (Gentiles). Experience His love every day and forever.
11. God is jealous. He alone is worthy of our worship. This is a good and healthy kind of jealousy. We should have this kind of jealousy also.
12. God is rich. He lavishes His riches on all who trust in Him. GRACE is God's riches at Christ's expense.
13. Christianity is the most inclusive faith there is. All are welcome to be a part of God's family. Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, male or female, young or old, light or dark, all are welcome. Come to Jesus. Rest in Jesus.
14. What is God's primary calling in your life? Who is He calling you to reach, teach, and minister to (serve)?
15. You can be reconciled to God and be given the ministry of reconciliation. How are you helping others connect with their Creator?
16. God's people are referred to as an olive tree. Jews are the original branches. Gentiles have been grafted into the tree. One day there will be an end time harvest among the Jewish people.
17. God wants us to live humbly before Him. Recognize God's grace, mercy, kindness, and patience.
18. God wants us to have a holy and reverential fear of Him. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
19. God is both kind and severe. Receive His kindness today. Be nourished by His love today. Continue in faith, hope, and love. Remain in His kindness. God will right all wrongs, all injustice, and His judgement will be holy, righteous, and severe.
20. Jesus was severely judged in our place on the cross so that we could receive God's kindness and blessing. Trust in Jesus today.

Announcements

- 2024 Budget Approval (March 17)
- Hope Mountain Easter egg Hunt (Sunday, March 24)
- Good Friday Worship (Friday, March 29)
- Resurrection Sunday (March 31)
- More youth volunteers needed. See David Barrero.